Basic information

2017/2131(INL) INL - Legislative initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Situation in Hungary See also 2017/2656(RSP) **Subject** 1.10 Fundamental rights in the EU, Charter 3.30.08 Press, media freedom and pluralism 8.30.10 Principles common to the Member States, EU values **Geographical area** Hungary	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
LIBE Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs	DELBOS-CORFIELD Gwendoline (Greens/EFA)	04/09/2019
	Shadow rapporteur METSOLA Roberta (PPE) SPUREK Sylwia (S&D) WIŚNIEWSKA Jadwiga (ECR) BJÖRK Malin (GUE/NGL)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
CONT Budgetary Control	GRÄSSLE Ingeborg (PPE)	28/09/2017
CULT Culture and Education	KAMMEREVERT Petra (S&D)	21/06/2017
AFCO Constitutional Affairs	PAGAZAURTUNDÚA Maite (ALDE)	04/09/2017
FEMM Women's Rights and Gender Equality	NOICHL Maria (S&D)	30/11/2017

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Migration and Home Affairs	AVRAMOPOULOS Dimitris

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
06/07/2017	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
25/06/2018	Vote in committee		
04/07/2018	Committee report tabled for plenary	A8-0250/2018	Summary
11/09/2018	Debate in Parliament		
12/09/2018	Decision by Parliament	T8-0340/2018	Summary
12/09/2018	Results of vote in Parliament		
12/09/2018	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2017/2131(INL)
Procedure type	INL - Legislative initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislative initiative
Amendments and repeals	See also 2017/2656(RSP)
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 46
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	LIBE/8/10381

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee opinion	AFCO	PE615.423	26/03/2018	
Committee draft report		PE620.837	12/04/2018	
Committee opinion	CONT	PE615.392	26/04/2018	
Committee opinion	CULT	PE618.171	17/05/2018	
Committee opinion	FEMM	PE619.174	17/05/2018	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE622.145	17/05/2018	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE622.146	25/06/2018	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A8-0250/2018	04/07/2018	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T8-0340/2018	12/09/2018	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2018)829	11/03/2019	

Additional information		
Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Situation in Hungary

2017/2131(INL) - 12/09/2018 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 448 votes to 197, with 48 abstentions, a resolution on a proposal calling on the Council to determine, pursuant to Article 7(1) of the Treaty on European Union, the existence of a clear risk of a serious breach by Hungary of the values on which the Union is founded.

The European Union is based on common values enshrined in Article 2 of the EU Treaty and reflected in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. These values include respect for democracy, equality, the rule of law and human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities.

The European Union's mission is to **safeguard these common values** through the process provided for in Article 7 of the EU Treaty. This is the preventive phase of the procedure, which provides for a dialogue with the Member State concerned and is intended to avoid possible sanctions.

In its resolution of 17 May 2017 on the situation in Hungary, Parliament stated that the current situation in Hungary represents a clear risk of a serious breach of the values referred to in Article 2 TEU and warrants the launch of the Article 7(1) TEU procedure. While the Hungarian authorities have consistently been ready to discuss the legality of any specific measure, the situation has not been addressed and many concerns remain.

This resolution lists a series of facts and trends that constitute a **clear risk of a serious breach of the Union's values**. Consequently, Parliament submitted to the Council, in accordance with Article 7(1) of the Treaty on European Union, a **reasoned proposal** inviting the Council to determine whether there is a clear risk of a serious breach by Hungary of the values referred to in Article 2 TEU and to address appropriate recommendations to Hungary in this regard.

The main concerns relate particularly to the following:

- the functioning of the constitutional and electoral system;
- the independence of the judiciary and of other institutions;
- the rights of judges;
- corruption and conflicts of interest;
- privacy and data protection and freedom of expression;
- academic freedom;
- freedom of religion;
- the right to equal treatment;
- the rights of persons belonging to minorities, including Roma and Jews, and protection against hateful statements against such minorities;
- the fundamental rights of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees;
- economic and social rights.

Parliament recalled that the accession of Hungary to the EU, which requires respect for and the promotion of the values referred to in Article 2, was a voluntary act based on a sovereign decision, with a broad consensus across the Hungarian political spectrum.

Situation in Hungary

2017/2131(INL) - 04/07/2018 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs adopted a report (Initiative - Rule 45 and 52 of the Rules of Procedure) by Judith SARGENTINI (Greens/EFA, NL) on a proposal calling on the Council to determine, pursuant to Article 7(1) of the Treaty on European Union, the existence of a clear risk of a serious breach by Hungary of the values on which the Union is founded.

The Union is founded on **the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights,** including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. These values are common to the Member States in a society in which pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men prevail.

The EU has the task of **safeguarding these common values** by making use of the process under Article 7 TEU. It can assess the existence of a clear risk of a serious breach of the common values in areas falling under Member States' competences.

The committee considered that **Hungary is at risk of seriously breaching the values of the European Union.** This motion for a resolution sets out a series of facts and trends which, taken together, represent a systemic threat to the values of Article 2 of the EU Treaty and constitute a clear risk of serious breach of it.

The Hungarian authorities have consistently been ready to discuss the legality of any specific measure but failed to take all the actions recommended in Parliament's previous resolutions. In its resolution of 17 May 2017 on the situation in Hungary, Parliament stated that the current situation in Hungary represents a clear risk of a serious breach of the values referred to in Article 2 TEU and warrants the launch of the Article 7(1) TEU procedure.

Members consider that it is necessary to request the Council to come forward with appropriate measures to restore inclusive democracy, the rule of law and respect for fundamental rights in Hungary. Accordingly, they propose that the European Parliament submit **a reasoned proposal to the Council, inviting the Council to determine whether there is a clear risk of a serious breach by Hungary of the values referred to in Article 2 TEU** and to address appropriate recommendations to Hungary in this regard.

Their main concerns relate particularly to the following:

- the functioning of the constitutional and electoral system;
- the independence of the judiciary and of other institutions;
- the rights of judges;
- corruption and conflicts of interest;
- privacy and data protection and freedom of expression;
- academic freedom;
- freedom of religion;
- the right to equal treatment;
- the rights of persons belonging to minorities, including Roma and Jews, and protection against hateful statements against such minorities;
- the fundamental rights of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees;
- economic and social rights.

The draft resolution recalled that the accession of Hungary, which requires respect for and the promotion of the values referred to in Article 2, was a voluntary act based on a sovereign decision, with a broad consensus across the Hungarian political spectrum.